

# Grossman attacks Liberals' spending and taxing policies

By MARK EKLOVE

Ontario's Liberal government has over \$900-million in extra revenue this year, and their spending and taxing policies must be changed, according to Larry Grossman, leader of the provincial Progressive Conservative party.

Grossman called for payments to reduce the deficit now, during the province's current period of economic growth, and for an increase in funding to institutions such as hospitals and universities, which were hit hardest during the recession in the early 1980s.

The Queen's Park opposition leader was speaking at a luncheon last Thursday sponsored by the York Progressive Conservative club. Over 80 people attended "Lunch with Larry", which focused primarily on provincial budgetary concerns.

While government revenues increased 14 percent last year, transfer payments to hospitals, school boards, universities, and colleges were only increased by four to seven percent, Grossman said.

"Taxes have to be cut," he continued, indicating that the average Ontario family earns \$34,000 annually, and pays half of that in taxes. Grossman called for a 10 percent reduction in income tax and the lowering of retail sales tax to six percent. Grossman believes this will lead to an injection of capital into the private sector, resulting in an increase in economic activity throughout the province.

With regard to post-secondary education, Grossman suggested that Ontario universities follow the example of schools south of the border. There should be a greater linkage between the academic and corporate worlds he said, adding that Ontario's best and brightest students are leaving the province to attend American schools that enjoy this linkage. Grossman also said the government must increase funds to universities for research and development.

The final issue Grossman addressed was the tremendous dropout rate of high school students in Ontario. "76 percent of our population does not complete high school," Grossman noted. (This figure is

based on the December 86 Ken Dryden report on Youth.) "There has to be a re-structuring of the system," he said.

Grossman then opened the floor to questions from the audience.

In response to the questions of the tarnished image of present day politicians, he retorted "I am proud of my profession, and I feel professionally disturbed by that perception." Of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Grossman said that his policies contain substance, but the people of Canada do not approve of his style.

When asked about pay equity legislation, Grossman said he supported the idea, but insisted that Ontario needs "pay equity without pay police," (referring to the proposed plan that would allow provincial officials to search businesses to

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ONE WORLD IS ENOUGH FOR ALL OF US: The Association for Baha'i Studies is currently holding its Peace Week in Central Square.

JAMES HOGGETT

# Canadian content forum indicative of opposing views in broadcast industry

By LIZ REYES

"It is perfect nonsense to believe that private broadcasters, left to themselves, will provide Canadian programming," said independent filmmaker John Walker, at last Monday's forum entitled "Are you content with Canadian Content?"

With representatives from each facet of the broadcast industry, the forum focused on Canadian cultural production in light of the recently released Caplan/Sauvageau Task Force report on broadcast policy.

The six-member panel, which was organized by the Mass Communication Federation of Students, included John Coleman, vice president of Planning/Development at CTV; Michael Hind-Smith, president of the Canadian Cable Association; Jacques Bensimon, director of Children's Broadcasting at TV Ontario's *La Chaine Francaise*; Judith McCann of Telefilm Canada; and David Bond, president of the Canadian Broadcasters Association.

The speeches were indicative of the opposing views among private

and public broadcasters regarding the sweeping recommendations made in the Task Force report. Contrary to the views expressed in the federal report, representatives of private industry gathered at the forum appeared content with the present system.

Both Coleman and Hind-Smith criticized several recommendations made by the Task Force. The creation of a channel for Canadian productions (TV Canada), and the forcing of cable and private broadcasting industry to increase investment in Canadian content, are an inadequate remedy to the lack of Canadian dramatic programming, they said.

According to Hind-Smith, the Task Force is an attempt to evoke a state of crisis in Canadian broadcasting. The cable industry already contributes a substantial amount to Canadian production, he added.

"We represent a large part of the public and they don't think there is a crisis," he continued. "They wanted cable, they needed it, and they pay for it."

Cable and private broadcasters, especially the CTV network, were chastised in the Caplan/Sauvageau report for not sufficiently contributing to the creation of Canadian dramatic programming and foreign news bureaus. The report accused cable and private broadcasters of inundating the Canadian market with US programs.

In defense of CTV, Coleman stated that it is impossible to produce the programs recommended by the Task Force. "Until our resources are equal to the US, we cannot expect our system to be equal in quality and quantity," said the CTV vice president.

Both McCann and Walker agreed that there is sufficient Canadian talent available to meet the recommendations of the Task Force, but there is a shortage of financial support. "The talent is out there," McCann said. "The problem is, where will the money come from to produce it?"

Sharp criticism of the private industry continued into the question period. Three independent film pro-

ducers attacked the CTV network for their reluctance to take a risk on new independent productions, and the lack of any visible minorities in any of their programming.

Infuriated with the constant criticism of the network, the CTV representative tried to explain that the network is attempting to deal with the situations as best as possible.

According to the forum's moderator, Catherine Murray, a former professor of Political Science/Mass Communications at York, the Caplan/Sauvageau report is filled with interesting recommendations which are certain to have broad implications for all areas of broadcasting.

While all the speakers agreed that it is important for Canada to create its own voice in dramatic programming, it was also emphasized that for Canadian productions to be a success, they must be sold in foreign markets. In this way, Canada can become culturally self-sufficient, thus decreasing its dependence on US imports.

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